

Water-Wise Landscape Incentive Program

Program Procedures

Please, do not start any landscape renovation or product installation until after receiving written project approval from the District. Before starting any project, purchasing equipment, applying to, and participating in the program, customers must call (831) 384-6131 to schedule a meeting with District staff. The project must first be reviewed, and then a required Landscape Site Survey conducted by District staff must be completed. The Landscape Site Survey takes about one hour of time on site. The homeowner, responsible party, or a designee who has access to the irrigation system controls must be present for the appointment.

- During the project review, the Applicant shall describe the proposed project or conversion to staff. Staff will then verify the existing landscape and irrigation system size and condition, components, and current water use. For large and/or complex projects, staff may request the applicant provide a landscape plan.
- To assure efficient operation of any new irrigation system or components, staff may require adjustments, repairs, and modifications to the existing system be made prior to project completion and final project approval by the District.
- Only once the project is initially reviewed, the Landscape Site Survey completed, and the Landscape Incentive Application Form filled out with the assistance of the District staff, is the application accepted and initial project approval given by staff.
- Once approved, the project may proceed as planned, to completion. District staff must be notified and approve of any design changes made while the project is proceeding. All projects must be completed within 60 days; otherwise the program application will be rejected.
- To assure compliance, quality, and performance, it is recommended that only a licensed, insured landscape contractor install irrigation components or modify your existing landscape. Check with your local jurisdictional officials and inquire about city, county and water district codes and ordinances before installing or modifying your irrigation system or landscape.
- Once the project is completed, the applicant must schedule a follow-up site inspection with the District. District staff will verify installation and compliance with the Design Criteria, check irrigation system operation, and will assist in irrigation scheduling if required. Also at this time, the District staff will request the Applicant provide the original itemized product or service receipts.
- If the project is completed as planned, the District staff then signs the application form verifying project completion and processes the incentive payment.

Terms of Agreement, and Program Eligibility Requirements

- Program is limited to available funding. Approved applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Only MCWD customers of current record are eligible to participate in, and receive payment from, the Landscape Incentive Program. The customer's account must be in good standing and non-delinquent at the time of initial project approval.
- The Applicant certifies that all necessary permissions have been obtained from the property owner, if the Applicant is not the owner themselves.
- The approved project site must be located within the Marina Coast Water District service area.
- Projects are approved at the discretion of the MCWD staff. Projects that do not meet the program eligibility requirements will be denied.
- MCWD reserves the right to alter this program at any time.
- MCWD does not endorse specific brands, products or dealers; nor does it guarantee materials, workmanship, or results.
- MCWD assumes no responsibility or liability for damages to an Applicant's property as a result of participation in this program.
- The District cannot guarantee that the installation of devices and the renovation of landscaping will result in lower utility costs.
- Only original, itemized receipts for products and services dated after initial project approval are accepted.
- Sales tax, delivery charges, and installation costs are not rebated. Lawn and sprinkler replacement incentives are based on a pre-determined and agreed upon measurement of the projects square footage of lawn and/or irrigated area.
- Incentives are only provided for renovations to existing landscapes older than two years. New construction projects are not eligible for incentives.
- The water use at the landscaped site must be metered by the District.
- A backflow prevention device must be present and installed as required by law. If required, there must be evidence that the backflow prevention device has recently been inspected, and results filed with the District.
- All automated irrigation systems must have a rain shut off device installed. An incentive to purchase this device is provided by the District.
- Applicants for the ET Controller Rebate must have an existing irrigation system with an operable automatic controller that is being replaced.
- Only District approved ET-based irrigation controllers and rain shut-off switches are eligible for those specific incentives.
- All projects must be completed within 60 days of initial project approval.

Project Criteria for the Lawn and Sprinkler Replacement Incentive

- It must be possible to water remaining grass areas separately from other bedding areas.
- It must be possible to water high water need plants (such as vegetables, or annuals) separately from other areas.
- As designed, the estimated water use of the new landscape must be lower than that of the landscape replaced.
- To reduce water loss through evaporation, a 3" layer of mulch material must be used in planting beds.
- Manual irrigation controls are permitted in the completed project. No automatic rain shut off device is required on manually controlled systems. It is advised to operate drip irrigation with a timer or dedicated shut off device.
- The irrigation system must be in a good state of repair and must water areas with reasonable efficiency such that it can be used without water waste. Examples of unacceptable waste would be: excessive water hitting non-plant areas, excessive water in specific areas or too little water in others, or pooling water from ineffective spray.
- The determination of the eligible square footage of lawn or sprinkler system replacement is at the discretion of the MCWD staff.
- For the Lawn and Sprinkler Replacement Incentive in areas with permanent, automated irrigation, the eligible square footage is that area receiving irrigation coverage.
- For manually irrigated lawn replacement, without the removal of an established irrigation system, Lawn Area is that area occupied by lawn, not necessarily the area receiving irrigation coverage. Lawn shall be defined as a uniform, established planting of desirable grasses that is regularly watered, manicured, and cared for.

Tax Information Requirements

All rebates require a tax identification number or social security number be provided. Unless you are exempt, cumulative incentive payments equal to or greater than \$600 in a calendar year are taxable and therefore will be reported to the IRS on form 1099-Misc. You are urged to consult your tax advisor concerning the taxability of incentive payments. Marina Coast Water District is not responsible for any taxes that may be imposed on you as a result of any incentive payment.